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100TH CONGRESS
2d Session
SENATE
REPORT
100-433

NATIONAL MIMBRES CULTURE STUDY ACT OF 1988

JULY 27 (legislative day, JULY 26), 1988.—Ordered to be printed

Mr. JOHNSTON, from the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, submitted the following

REPORT

[To accompany S. 1912]

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to which was referred the bill (S. 1912) to authorize a study of the feasibility of establishing a National Mimbres Museum in Silver City, New Mexico, and for other purposes, having considered the same, reports favorably thereon with an amendment and an amendment to the title and recommends that the bill, as amended, do pass.

The amendments are as follows:

1. Strike out all after the enacting clause and insert in lieu thereof the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "National Mimbres Culture Study Act of 1988".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF STUDY.

(a) AUTHORIZATION.—The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to conduct a study of the Mimbres culture to determine its significance in illustrating and commemorating the prehistory of the Southwest. The study shall include an analysis of the significance of the culture as it relates to the Mogollon, Salado, and Casas Grandes cultures and shall include a list of appropriate sites for interpreting the culture.

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—The study shall include recommendations with respect to—

(1) measures for the preservation of resources associated with the Mimbres culture located in and around the vicinity of Silver City, New Mexico; and

(2) indications of types and general intensities of development, including a visitor facility with sufficient space to accommodate exhibits of Mimbres pottery and information regarding the Masau Trail, that would be associated with public enjoyment and use of the sites, including general location and anticipated costs.

(c) COMPLETION OF STUDY.—The study shall be completed and transmitted to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate not later than one year after the date on which funds are appropriated for the study.

S313-27

SEC. 3. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.

There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

2. Amend the title so as to read:

A bill to authorize a study of the Mimbres culture in Southwestern New Mexico and for other purposes.

PURPOSE OF THE MEASURE

The purpose of S. 1912, as ordered reported, is to authorize a study of the Mimbres culture in Southwestern New Mexico to determine its significance in illustrating and commemorating the prehistory of the Southwest.

BACKGROUND AND NEED

The Mimbres were a relatively small group of people who inhabited isolated valleys in southwest New Mexico from approximately 200 to 1200 A.D. They lived primarily by farming, hunting and gathering wild plant materials. In the millennium that the Mimbres lived in New Mexico, they produced a wide variety of stone tools, decorative objects and ornaments, and have won particular acclaim for a distinctive style of black and white pottery.

During the 1870's and 1880's, ruins in the Southwest began to receive widespread attention in the East. In the early 1900's, J. Walter Fewkes of the Smithsonian Institution made a reconnaissance of the Mimbres area and brought back the first collections of Mimbres pottery to the Smithsonian and the Museum of the American Indians in New York. His discovery led to a wave of scientific excavations in the 1920's and early 1930's. It was at this time that most of the Mimbres archeological exploration was carried out and most of the material now in museums was collected.

S. 1912 would authorize the National Park Service to conduct a study of the Mimbres culture to determine its significance to the history of the Southwestern United States. The study is to include an analysis of the significance of the Mimbres culture as it relates to the Mogollon, Salado and Casas Grandes cultures, as well as a list of appropriate sites for interpreting the culture.

The study shall be transmitted within one year to the Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs in the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate. The study shall include recommendations on (1) measures which should be taken for the preservation of resources associated with the Mimbres culture and (2) indications of types of development, including the feasibility of a visitor center, which could be associated with public enjoyment and use of the sites.

LEGISLATIVE HISTORY

S. 1912 was introduced by Senator Bingaman on December 2, 1987. A hearing was conducted by the Subcommittee on Public Lands, National Parks and Forests on March 24, 1988.

At the business meeting on June 29, 1988, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources ordered S. 1912, as amended, favorably reported.

COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATIONS AND TABULATION OF VOTES

The Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, in open business session on June 29, 1988, by a unanimous vote of a quorum present, recommends that the Senate pass S. 1912 if amended, as described herein.

The rollcall vote on reporting the measure was 19 yeas, 0 nays, as follows:

YEAS	NAYS
Mr. Johnston	
Mr. Bumpers	
Mr. Ford*	
Mr. Metzenbaum*	
Mr. Melcher*	
Mr. Bradley*	
Mr. Bingaman	
Mr. Wirth*	
Mr. Fowler	
Mr. Conrad	
Mr. McClure	
Mr. Hatfield*	
Mr. Weicker	
Mr. Domenici	
Mr. Wallop	
Mr. Murkowski	
Mr. Nickles	
Mr. Hecht	
Mr. Evans*	

*Indicates voted by proxy.

COMMITTEE AMENDMENTS

During consideration of S. 1912, the Committee adopted an amendment in the nature of a substitute. The substitute deleted authorization of a feasibility study for a National Mimbres Museum and made a number of technical changes. A more complete description of the measure as reported from the Committee is found in the "Background and Need" section of this report.

COST AND BUDGETARY CONSIDERATIONS

The following estimate of the cost of this measure has been provided by the Congressional Budget Office:

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON
ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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6 1988
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20510

July 6, 1988

Honorable J. Bennett Johnston, Jr.
Chairman
Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

The Congressional Budget Office has reviewed S. 1912, the National Mimbres Culture Study Act of 1988, as ordered reported by the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, June 29, 1988.

We estimate that implementation of this bill would cost about $200,000 during fiscal years 1989 and 1990, assuming appropriation of the necessary sums. S. 1912 would authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study of the Mimbres culture to evaluate its historical significance and make recommendations for interpretive and visitor facilities.

Enactment of this bill would not affect the budgets of state or local governments.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them.

Sincerely,

James L. Blum
Acting Director

cc: Honorable James A. McClure
Ranking Minority Member

REGULATORY IMPACT EVALUATION

In compliance with paragraph 11(b) of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee makes the following evaluation of the regulatory impact which would be incurred in carrying out S. 1912. The bill is not a regulatory measure in the sense of imposing Government-established standards or significant economic responsibilities on private individuals and businesses.

No personal information would be collected in administering the program. Therefore, there would be no impact of personal privacy.

Little, if any, additional paperwork would result from the enactment of S. 1912, as reported.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS

The pertinent legislative report received by the Committee from the Department of the Interior setting forth executive agency recommendations relating to S. 1912 is set forth below:

United States Department of the Interior

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20240

MAY 4 1988

Honorable J. Bennett Johnston
Chairman, Committee on Energy
and Natural Resources
United States Senate
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Mr. Chairman:

This responds to your request for our views on S. 1912, a bill "To authorize a study of the feasibility of establishing a National Mimbres Museum in Silver City, New Mexico, and for other purposes."

We recommend against enactment of S. 1912.

S. 1912 would authorize three studies concerning the Mimbres culture: One that explores the feasibility of establishing a museum in Silver City, New Mexico, commemorating the Mimbres culture; one that evaluates the many excavated and unexcavated Mimbres sites in the Silver City vicinity; and one that determines the significance of the Mimbres culture as it relates to other prehistoric cultures such as the Gila and the Casas Grandes Indians. The bill would require that reports of the studies be submitted within one year of the date of enactment.

The Mimbres people were a relatively small group of people who inhabited a few valleys in southwest New Mexico from approximately 200 to 1200 A.D. They lived primarily by farming the well-watered lands near rivers and streams and by hunting and gathering wild plant materials. The Mimbres would have remained rather obscure had it not been for one major achievement -- the development of a distinctive style of black and white painted pottery that has earned both national and international acclaim.

Most National Park Service areas focusing on prehistory have as their primary resource the remains of settlements. The most spectacular of these are at Chaco Culture National Historical Park and Mesa Verde National Park, but lesser sites that combine both architectural excellence and scenic grandeur exist at places such as Aztec Ruins National

Monument and Tonto National Monument. Portable remains, including pottery, are given full protection as cultural resources, but are secondary in the interpretive program and overall operation of these parks. Some artifacts are usually exhibited in a visitor center or museum while the rest are preserved for future research or as a bank of objects which can be drawn on for revised or expanded interpretive use. The effect of the enactment of S. 1912 would be to encourage recognition of artifacts as a primary purpose for National Park Service involvement.

If enacted, we estimate that the cost of the three studies outlined in S. 1912 would be approximately $150,000-$200,000 and would take between two and three complete fiscal years to finish. We cannot support this expenditure. Because we have no funds budgeted to do these studies, we recommend that it would be more appropriate for a university or similar entity to conduct them. We note that Western New Mexico University already has some museum facilities in the area.

The Office of Management and Budget has advised that there is no objection to the presentation of this report from the standpoint of the Administration's program.

Sincerely,

William P. Horn

Assistant Secretary

CHANGES IN EXISTING LAW

In compliance with paragraph 12 of Rule XXVI of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the Committee notes that no changes in existing law are made by bill S. 1912, as reported.

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